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REVIEWS.

THE LOWER SOUTH IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

THE LOWER SOUTH IN AMERICAN HISTORY. By William Garrett Brown, Lecturer in History at Harvard University for 1901-02. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1902.

This work, made up partly of lectures, delivered North and South before college students, and including essays written for the *Atlantic Monthly*, possesses, notwithstanding its composite form, a real unity of purpose and plan. Its author, an Alabamian who is familiar with what has already been written upon his subject, sketches sympathetically, but with discrimination, the history of the Lower South, that tier of States once called the Cotton Kingdom. His style, which possesses real distinction, glows with a personal feeling which greatly attracts the reader. His incentive seems to have been a very natural protest against the inadequate results previously reached by students who, following German methods, have sought "to exhibit the true form and hue of our American civilization by putting together many minute observations or by reasoning from a few broad truths."

Without a word of detraction as to the work of economists like Cairnes, travelers such as Olmstead, and historians like Rhodes and Schouler, he indicates the limitations of their perspective in the words, "Surely a true picture of Southern life half a century ago should not seem altogether strange to men and women still living who were once a part of it." All work hitherto done has given only a distorted view of the social life of the old South. Some of the forces which influenced that life have been observed but overemphasized; others have eluded investigators. Many of the qualities which that life represented and fostered still exist and will doubtless add a much-needed grace and charm of manner to that distinctive American type which is in process of development. But the social life of the old plantation has passed into history, and it can be truly described and interpreted to the

Americans of to-day only by those who were once a part of it or who have received its feelings and traditions by inheritance.

There are problems for historical students, in the political dominance from 1840 to 1860 of a minority representing this Southern tier of States, also in the organized plantation, and in the causes which developed that wonderful private soldier of the Confederacy. No investigations hitherto conducted have fairly explained or accounted for these phenomena. There is also the class of the poor whites which Mr. Brown refers to as "the remote, unthrifty, unambitious, inscrutable people of the squalid cabin and the long rifle and the chin beard and the hidden distillery and the oddly Elizabethan speech, who for three hundred years have not even noted the growth of America or the progress of the world." The forces which have produced and preserved them have remained thus far as inscrutable as themselves.

Mr. Brown has, in this book, attempted only a sketch. It is, however, one true in outline and sense of proportion and made from the correct point of view. It is therefore to be desired that it may take the place, in the eyes of the American people, of some other pictures which are unintended caricatures.

May we not also hope that the author will in time complete his true task and turn his sketch into a painting, even if, as he says, it "must wait for days of confident mornings and calm evenings. Such his days and nights must be, his mind at peace, his silence undistracted, who would enter into the body of this civilization which I have tried to intimate with outlines, and make it live again through these and other of its times and seasons, he also living in it and dying in it and rising in it again. For this, and nothing less, is the demand it makes of its historian." It is evident that to Mr. Brown this work is a high vocation. All intelligent Americans are now disposed to look sympathetically at the past life of every part of their common country. The time has arrived when Southern writers should do for their own section that which Parkman and Fiske have done for the Northwest and the North-

east, and should work in that spirit of vigorous Americanism which President Roosevelt has shown us in his "Winning of the West." The material for their labor lies at present all about them in the oral testimony of participants yet living and in family correspondence preserved in many a home.

But oral testimony will soon pass beyond recall. Letters will disappear. Outlines now clear will by another generation have grown dim and hazy. Unless this phase of national life is soon given a form which will permanently preserve it, it will suffer the fate of perpetual misunderstanding, and in failing to secure a proper conception of it the American people will sustain an irreparable loss.

It is therefore the more to be hoped that Mr. Brown, who seems so well equipped for this work, will be able to develop it. Such development in the style and tone of his present work is sure to attract an interested attention.

CHARLES W. TURNER.

EDUCATIONAL EDITORIALS AND LITERARY LEADERS.

EDITORIAL ECHOES. By William Morton Payne. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. 1902.

LITTLE LEADERS. By William Morton Payne. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. 1902.

Mr. Payne, of the Chicago *Dial*, gives us another volume of collections, "Editorial Echoes," in imitation of the method of his "Little Leaders" of seven years ago, which also appears as a companion volume. The wider world consciousness has grown upon the writer in this time and has become more clearly accentuated. The spirit of Dante is upon him in his dedicatory sonnet, and "Dante in America" is the subject of the first tribute on literature. This growing cosmopolitanism and wide sympathy is the note of "French Poetry and English," which bravely maintains that French poets may be as poetical as English to ears rightly attuned to their cadences. If there be English superiority, it is in quantity, not in quality. It is the same note of "World Literature" that is taken as the subject of the following sketch, where